

## **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC**

**August 1, 2006**

**Immediately following Cmte. on Human Resources**

Chairman Osborne called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Osborne, O'Neil, Shea, Roy, Long

Messrs.: K. Sheppard, J. Hoben, M. Sink, Sgt. Bartlett, G. Gagne, Dep. Chief Simmons, F. Rusczech

Chairman Osborne stated we will address item 5, the Traffic Department agenda, first. The Clerk has advised that Mr. Hoben has submitted an addendum to be included, a copy of which has been distributed to each member.

### **CROSSWALKS**

On Spruce Street, east and west of Belmont Street

On Belmont Street, north and south of Spruce Street

Alderman Osborne

### **DIRECTIONAL SIGNS (EMERGENCY ACT)**

West Jr. Deb Softball Field, right arrow, on McGregor Street at Bremer Street,  
NWC

West Jr. Deb Softball Field, left arrow, on McGregor Street, SEC

West Jr. Deb Softball Field, left arrow, on Kelly Street at Upland Street, NEC

Alderman Forest

### **BACK UP STOP SIGN (EMERGENCY ACT)**

Belmont Street at Spruce Street, NEC

Alderman Osborne

### **STOP SIGNS (EMERGENCY ACT)**

On Riverfront Drive at the east terminus of Riverfront Drive, SWC

Alderman Forest

### **STOP SIGNS:**

On Tarrytown Road at Hanover Street, northeast corner

Alderman Duval

**RESCIND STOP SIGN**

On Leach Street at Second Street, SWC (ORD. 2498)

(Leach Street a Private Street)

Alderman Smith

**YIELD SIGN**

On Bridge Street at Mammoth Road, northeast island

Alderman Gatsas

**RESCIND YIELD SIGNS**

On Bridge Street at Mammoth Road, NEC (ORD. 2474)

Alderman Gatsas

On So. Maple Street at So. Willow Street, SEC, SWC (ORD.6740)

Alderman Garrity

**NO PARKING ANYTIME (EMERGENCY ACT)**

On Massabesic Street, north side, from Belmont Street to a point 175 feet east

On Massabesic Street, south side, from Summer Street to a point 85 feet west

Alderman Osborne

**NO PARKING ANYTIME**

On Pearl Street, south side, from a point 40 feet east of Chestnut Street to Pine  
Street

Alderman Long

On Tarrytown road, west side, from Mammoth Road to Hanover Street

Alderman Duval

On Cypress Street, west side, from Massabesic Street to a point 35 feet south

On Massabesic Street, south side, from Cypress Street to a point 215 feet east

On Massabesic Street, south side, from Cypress Street to a point 120 feet west

On Oakland Avenue, south side, from Woodbine Avenue to a point 65 feet  
easterly

On Oakland Avenue, south side, from Woodbine Avenue to a point 80 feet  
westerly

On Spruce Street, north side, from a point 64 feet east of Massabesic Street to  
Belmont Street

Alderman Osborne

On Karatzas Avenue, both sides, from Lagrange Avenue southerly to the dead end

Alderman Pinard

On Dubuque Street, west side, from Amory Street to a point 50 feet north  
Alderman Thibault

**RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME**

On Pearl Street, south side, from Chestnut Street to Pine Street (ORD.9100)  
Alderman Long

**RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE**

On Amherst Street, south side, from a point 410 feet east of Nutfield Lane to  
Chestnut Street (ORD. 6916)  
Alderman Long

On Tarrytown Road, west side, from a point 155 feet north of Hanover Street to a  
point 60 feet northerly (ORD. 7424)  
Alderman Duval

**NO PARKING – LOADING ZONE (8AM-8PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY)**

On Amherst Street, south side, from a point 41- feet east of Nutfield Lane to  
Chestnut Street  
Alderman Long

**RESCIND 15-MINUTE PARKING**

On Massabesic Street, south side, from a point 140 feet west of Cypress Street to a  
point 40 feet west (ORD. 3370)  
Alderman Osborne

**RESCIND 30-MINUTE PARKING (8AM-6PM)**

On Spruce Street, north side, from Massabesic Street to Belmont Street  
(ORD. 8200)  
Alderman Osborne

**RESCIND PARKING ONE HOUR**

On Cypress Street, west side, from Massabesic Street to Garland Avenue  
(ORD. 2901)  
On Massabesic Street, south side, from 180 feet west of Cypress Street to the west  
property line of 305 Cypress Street (ORD. 3371)  
On Massabesic Street, south side, from Cypress Street westerly to a point 140 feet  
west of Cypress Street (ORD. 3369)  
Alderman Osborne

**30-MINUTE PARKING**

On Massabesic Street, south side, from a point 120 feet west of Cypress Street to a point 100 feet west  
Alderman Osborne

**30-MINUTE PARKING (8AM-6PM)**

On Spruce Street, north side, from Massabesic Street to a point 64 feet east  
Alderman Osborne

**PARKING ONE HOUR (8AM-6PM)**

On Cypress Street, west side, from a point 35 feet south of Massabesic Street to  
Garland Avenue  
On Massabesic Street, south side, from a point 305 feet west of Cypress Street to a  
point 317 feet westerly  
Alderman Osborne

**PARKING ONE HOUR (8AM-4PM/MONDAY-FRIDAY)**

On Central Street, both sides, from Tarrytown Road, westerly to the dead end  
Alderman Osborne

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to approve the Traffic Department agenda as amended.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

4. Discussion relative to street and sidewalk widths as they relate to making streets one way with diagonal parking as requested by Alderman Roy.

Chairman Osborne asked could we call Mr. Sheppard up so we can review it a little bit?

Mr. Sheppard stated I believe Bruce Thomas was at the last meeting and he reviewed some of this with you and the committee requested that he go back and take some measurements on some of the streets like westerly up of Elm Street down to Canal Street. He did do that and based on the measurements that were taken at the time it appears that in reality Stark Street, as it is now, or Market Street, Middle Street, W. Merrimack Street and Pleasant Street, the travel lane width does not work. We mentioned this at the last meeting. And I spoke to Chief Kane today regarding this and I believe the width of 15 feet would be adequate.

Chairman Osborne asked do we have angle parking on any of those streets right now. We do, don't we?

Mr. Sheppard responded I don't believe on any these streets that are listed in that handout.

Chairman Osborne stated not on any of these, but we do have some existing on Stark Street. It's one side, isn't it?

Mr. Sheppard stated one side with parallel parking on the other.

Chairman Osborne asked is Stark Street about the same width as the others we're talking about or is that a wider street?

Mr. Sheppard that's probably about three feet wider than say Mechanic Street; that street is 44 feet wide; Mechanic Street is roughly 41 feet wide. I have to take a look at ... I don't have the numbers but I know you have a 15 foot travel lane.

Chairman Osborne stated that makes the one way. If you wanted to put angled parking on both sides of Stark Street it wouldn't work.

Mr. Sheppard said correct.

Chairman Osborne stated the only one you can see here is Mechanic Street, possibly. It leaves a 15-foot leeway. That's really the only one.

Mr. Sheppard responded say the Fire Department does prefer 22 feet, I know I spoke to Chief Kane today. He spoke with Deputy Albin and I believe Deputy Albin had taken a look at the 15 foot lane and they felt that would be adequate for the street, for the Fire Department.

Chairman Osborne asked what about their backing out in this area?

Mr. Sheppard stated it would be a one-way street so it would work similar to Stark Street.

Alderman Roy stated Kevin, first of all I'd like to thank Highway and Bruce for their diligence in measuring all of these streets and trying to solve some of our parking problem downtown. Have numbers been put together as to what it would take to change over Mechanic Street?

Mr. Sheppard stated Bruce is actually on vacation. He put this together late last week. I haven't had a chance to work with Jim Hoben to put together a number. You know the cost really associated with that is erasing existing white lines on whatever side we decide to put the new parking and then striping it for the new angled parking. And I don't believe there'd be large cost for that but we haven't put together that. I believe there's an additional potential for one or two spots if we could.

Alderman Roy moved to go forward with changing Mechanic Street and to receive and file the information on the other streets. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Sheppard stated earlier, on my way in, I talked to Paul Borek about this and he hadn't seen this memo either, and I brought him a copy. We need to put together a cost to convert this over and discuss with him adding a Parking Enterprise that fits within his budget. So that's what I would ask is to allow us to put together a proposal with Paul Borek and report back to this committee once we've done that.

Chairman Osborne stated you mentioned Chief Kane said...to have 22 feet on Mechanic Street.

Mr. Sheppard stated they would prefer a 22-foot wide throughway.

Chairman Osborne asked do you know why they would prefer the 22 if they are going to go along with the 15?

Mr. Sheppard responded I don't know the reason. I'm sure it's the equipment width and ease of travel through the street but he did say that they could work with the 15.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Roy stated brief follow-up, Mr. Chairman. Do you think you'd be able to report back at our next committee meeting?

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to building codes/ordinances plus infrastructure relating to health and safety issues as requested by Chairman Osborne.

Chairman Osborne asked who do we have, Mr. Sink? Mr. Gagne is not...I'll open up. I guess we discussed a few things over the phone, which I had an interest in. I feel that the Building Department has been the way it has been for quite a few years and, as far as taking care of infrastructure, this is quite difficult when you don't have, of course, the manpower, but I wanted to look into this and prepare my mind, not only in my ward but the rest of the City, as far as when we have concerns from the constituents on too many cars parking in the yard that are registered, whatever it might be that adopting an ordinance...what I understand or what I think, I know we don't have the money in the budget to hire somebody but I've talked it over with Mr. Sink about Mr. Gagne who could be cross-trained on the building side of it as to the ordinances.

Mr. Sink stated the issue is probably, as you know, that there's a lot of non-compliance out there in terms of zoning ordinances. You brought up parking, unregistered vehicles. We're trying to do something about that right now with the proposed ordinance change that addresses unregistered cars that are also not roadworthy. What's happening is people with lots of junk cars on their property are going out and getting them registered, but they're still – the engine is sitting on the ground next to it, the wheels are off and it's up on jacks but we can't do anything about it because it's registered. So, we're working on that and other changes. Glenn has been putting a draft ordinance together. He's sort of doing that as something of a thesis for a public management program he's been in. He's coordinating that with the City Solicitors and that will be brought forth. We addressed some of the other issues, but as you said you can have as many laws on the books as you want but if you don't have people to enforce it, it really is kind of a moot point. We do have the ability to cross train housing code inspectors, they could do some zoning enforcement and that sort of thing. What happens there is you're cannibalizing from within, so the certificate of compliance program would suffer somewhat from that kind of action. But it is possible to do that. Our discussions, Leon and I have talked about that in the past, we are willing to take that route.

Alderman O'Neil asked can I ask a question on that issue? Max, couldn't we know how some efficiency could occur if a housing code inspector goes out to a certain address, does their inspection and does without a lot of effort something that's non-compliant, according to the zoning ordinance. Are there some efficiencies there?

Mr. Sink stated absolutely. They're there anyway. And it's a matter of training them in the ordinances. They have the housing standards; it's a matter of getting them the training; it would take a bit of time but it's certainly do-able.

Chairman Osborne stated you'd think somebody in building codes would have some sort of free time to help Mr. Gagne if it chooses.

Mr. Sink stated free time. There's no such thing as free time.

Chairman Osborne stated let's say we can stretch it a little. There is such a thing as, not free time but...

Mr. Sink said well the timing. Time is money. The time it's going to take to get that training in place and get them up to speed and able to A recognize and B enforce in the way of citation. I couldn't give you an estimate now as to how long that would be, or whether it can be fit into the daily schedule that they have.

Chairman Osborne stated I just want to say this. We are a growing city. Letting our infrastructure, I think, slide a little bit here with all the downtown activities and so on and so forth, so we have to look at this now because it's not going to get any better. So we've got to do something with it. What's your recommendation? What would you do for this problem? I call, it takes Mr. Gagne sometimes a week or two weeks to climb onto something. These people are calling with their concerns to the Aldermen in all the wards, and what can we say but we're working on it, but what do we do here?

Mr. Sink responded it's a matter of sheer volume and one man is not capable of handling it all.

Chairman Osborne stated I understand that.

Mr. Sink stated that's why it takes a long time to get there. He did have some help prior to the retirement of our building inspector and the movement of one of the housing inspectors into that position. He no longer has that help. We are now looking at two positions that have not been filled yet. A third is an administrative clerical role. Filling those would go a long way.

Chairman Osborne stated but there is no money in the budget.

Mr. Sink responded no, not right now. We're faced with another retirement.

Alderman Shea asked who is cross training Glenn?



Mr. Sink responded Glenn is not necessarily being cross trained. He's quite competent in his job. He knows the zoning ordinance and he knows how to enforce it. The cross training we're referring to is some of the other inspectors within the housing standards division who, because they are out doing inspections...

Alderman Shea asked so who is going to cross train them?

Mr. Sink stated that would have to be either myself or Glenn or a combination of both of us. I imagine it's going to be me.

Alderman Shea stated okay, so when do you visualize the cross training to begin and how long do you perceive it to take place?

Mr. Sink responded Alderman, this is not something that we have internally committed to doing. We've talked about it and when Leon gets back from vacation I'll bring it up again in light of this discussion and if that's something that this committee and the Board as a whole wants us to pursue we certainly will.

Alderman Shea asked would Leon be involved in the cross training as well?

Mr. Sink responded absolutely.

Alderman Shea stated well, if you could set it up, theoretically, how long, once it's set up, do you think the cross training would take, assuming, obviously, that things are in place – a month, three months, a week, three weeks?

Mr. Sink stated I can't imagine it taking more than a couple of months, to get them at least conditionally used to looking for certain things when they're...

Alderman Shea asked what is involved in the cross training? Just kind of give us a little example of what that means, the cross training.

Mr. Sink responded the zoning ordinance is kind of a difficult set of laws to enforce. It takes a long time to get really familiar with the nuances of it. The problems we have that I envision the housing inspectors or whoever becomes the help, the problems we have that they would address would be things like yards - private property that's cluttered with all kinds of junk.

Alderman Shea stated I'm familiar with that. Go ahead.

Mr. Sink stated the automobiles, auto body businesses that are run out of people's homes, just illegal businesses in general that they can pick up on. Construction work that's going on, they can certainly check and see if there are permits for. They get used to what is permitted in what zone, in terms of setback, height, area and that sort of thing, they can you know be much more tuned to what...

Alderman Shea asked at one time wasn't there a separate City department that did that type of work? Doug Mitchell was involved years back.

Mr. Sink responded the Housing Code Department was a separate department.

Alderman Shea stated well now what you're saying in essence is because that department was eliminated, then certain things, responsibilities that they had sort of just kind of, if I may use the term, kind of fell by the wayside because there weren't really personnel trained to do that kind of...

Mr. Sink stated no, the housing standards inspectors never actually enforced any zoning that I am aware of, even when they were a separate department. When they were consolidated with the Building Department, it was envisioned that there would be some overlap.

Alderman Shea asked now is Don, Don used to work somewhat with Glenn, is he the person that...

Mr. Sink who I just referred to, yeah.

Alderman Shea stated I kind of miss him.

Mr. Sink stated he's out straight doing building inspections now.

Alderman Shea said okay, thank you.

Chairman Osborne stated I kind of wish he was here. But anyway, Alderman Long?

Alderman Long stated thank you, Mr. Chairman. I concur with Alderman Osborne that once you get the calls, the time it takes to get out to these calls, I understand that you're doing the best you can. However, with today's technology is there other avenues we may pursue i.e. video, video conferencing? I know pictures are... that would help not having somebody to go out to the property itself. I'm not sure whether the statute or even the ordinance would allow it.

Mr. Sink said I'm not quite sure I understand. Who would be taking the pictures?

Alderman Long responded well either property owners, either neighbors. Let's say for example there's trash all over, car pieces all over somebody's property, there was a validation that at a specific time and date that this picture was taken, is it necessary to have somebody go there?

Mr. Sink stated the question may be better put to the Solicitor's office, but I believe that it is necessary to actually view the violation so that if you issue a citation you are actually admitting to the court that you viewed this.

Alderman Long asked is that per a statute or per ordinance?

Mr. Sink stated again I defer to our City Solicitor.

Chairman Osborne asked Glenn, could you come up? I see you hiding. I know. Do you have anything to add to what Mr. Sink has said?

Mr. Gagne stated no, I think Max has stated lack of ...

Alderman O'Neil stated maybe a motion would be in order and I'm willing to make it that we ask the Deputy Director and others to sit down and come back to us with a plan in a month on what would be involved with training. There may be a need for us to commit some funds to do it, maybe not. I'd also ask them to look at...Alderman Long might be onto something. I was thinking a little differently though. Is there a way technology-wise that if we invested in some type of computer, PDA's or something like that that people can use out in the field, that might improve or speed up service. And then come back with a plan that we could vote on.

Chairman Osborne asked what are you using now? Polaroid?

Mr. Sink responded we've got digital cameras that we can download to the computer.

Chairman Osborne said you have a source now, in a sense, don't you?

Mr. Sink stated we've got Polaroid too.

Alderman O'Neil stated but it's still paperwork, correct? We don't do anything, technology-wise. This was an issue I brought up regarding the plumbing inspector and electrical inspector in the past.

Mr. Sink stated we talked about having computers in the field to enter their inspection results.

Alderman O'Neil asked am I correct? Now everything is by hand and then somebody has to submit it, put it into the system back in the office.

Mr. Sink responded the inspectors themselves enter it in.

Alderman O'Neil stated well, I mean, right there if we invested some money in technology and training employees they'd only have to do it once instead of doing it twice now. Right? They write it out by hand and then they have to put it into the system.

Mr. Sink stated we could certainly look into something. I'm envisioning what the meter maids have.

Alderman O'Neil stated maybe they could reach out to Diane and ask for some help in that. We're going to have a computer system in Police and Fire. They can do reports right in the vehicles.

Mr. Sink stated it sounds like Glenn wants to say something because he's...

Chairman Osborne said the main reason I brought this together in the first place is that we don't have anybody out there in the field. Glenn has to spend a lot of time in the office. He hasn't got time to run around taking pictures, so you can't do paperwork and be out there taking Polaroids and digital pictures and so on and so forth if you don't have anybody to do it. So this is what I want to know. How are we going to cure this? This is the big thing. The rest of it will all fall in place.

Mr. Gagne stated obviously I'm in the office...reviews for Building Board of Adjustment...huge amount of my time, along with, you know, making calls, going to the counter, helping people who are coming in to see me. So, as Alderman Osborne said 90 percent of the time I'm in the office. When I do get out, it takes a long time to get to those inspections that are all piled up and the paperwork, even if I had a computer in the car to do a zoning violation notice and order right there, you're talking time consuming...instead of going out and doing ten inspections you're probably going out and doing two or three inspections.

Alderman O'Neil stated Glenn, walk with the meter maids, the parking control officers, that's not true.

Mr. Gagne stated they don't have to write a specific zoning violation notice in order...

Alderman O'Neil stated they have to cite various state laws and that. It can be done. I think that's...I don't buy that at all and I'm not a technology expert but I don't buy that it can't be done and it doesn't save time. Right now we're processing things twice. We write it and then somebody has to put it into the system.

Mr. Gagne responded well I do it all. I write down my notes when I go to the inspection and I come back and write a violation notice and order and send it out.

Alderman Shea stated I guess I'm...my understanding, and again, we don't have any statistical data, but it seems to me that there are certain sections of the City that are obviously more in need of code enforcements than are other sections. You can disagree or agree but there are certain sections that are not touched by the same problems that the Alderman in Ward 5 is, Alderman 7 is, Aldermen 3 and 4 might be. These are the other outlying wards of the City that don't have the concentration of housing, tenants, absentee property owners, etc. etc. I'd be interested to find out how you could statistically relate where the problems do exist. In other words, part of the problem we have with any kind of situation in the City are interrelated. There is no one answer why there are certain problems with crime, certain problems with sexual abuse, disease and so forth. And I think that it's incumbent that we interrelate all of these problems so that we can get a handle on them and understand them. In other words, when the police say that they have problems with crime, there are also problems with other kinds of situations, as we all know, whether it be the condition of the property, the fact that there isn't proper care of that property, the fact that there are people owning property that don't live in the property that they own, that there is overabundance of people living there, that there's the sight of the place in itself that is disgusting and discouraging. So, I think that what has to be done is a focus on where we have the major problems in the City are, and why we have these problems as they relate to your department, whether it be the Building Department or your specific division of that. And, I'd be more interested in finding out how we can handle these things. What can we do to make an impact in these areas, and I know that's you people, Glenn. You're familiar with the areas of the City and I know you've nodded your head and said I don't have to go to this section over here very often but I could spend all my time in this section here because of the number of problems that exist there. They're just overwhelming so I think that this has to be brought not only to, we'll say, the Aldermanic Board's attention but the Mayor's

attention as well, so that we can get a handle on these things because we can blow a lot of air at these meetings, but if we don't do anything the problems aren't going to get any better. They're going to get worse because we have too many people not doing their things and not playing by the rules.

Mr. Sink stated Alderman, we can certainly make that part of this plan that...we're going to put together for you.

Alderman Shea stated that would help out all of the Departments, whether it be the Fire, the Police, the Health Department and so forth.

Mr. Sink stated we've had something similar like that in the past in the form of what was called a concentrated code enforcement officer. They got a grant for...successful.

Alderman Shea stated if we need additional personnel, then it's up to your department head to go to the Mayor and explain to the Mayor, look we need people to do these things because if you don't do them, and we as Aldermen get calls, what can we do? We're sort of like helpless as well because basically we can't say, well, we'll refer to Glenn and he can't handle it by himself. He's not a one-armed paper hanger, you know. He's one person that can only do so much.

Mr. Sink stated Leon has been working with the Mayor, actually between the two Mayors and I think the budget process kind of got in the way but that's ongoing.

Chairman Osborne asked Glenn, how long have you been with the City now?

Mr. Gagne responded 23 years.

Chairman Osborne stated okay 23 years ago, 20 years ago, what did you have that you don't have today?

Mr. Gagne responded we don't have this many people in a city that's growing.

Chairman Osborne asked but how many in your department? I'm talking about what you're doing, did you have help?

Mr. Gagne responded just one. Al Kula was hired in what '73 I think, a zoning officer came on board.

Chairman Osborne stated there's always only been one zoning director(??)

Mr. Gagne stated it's kind of transpired where a building inspector used to go out on the road, and the other inspector has transpired into something where there is so much paperwork now that you're in the office a lot more.

Chairman Osborne stated all this economic development is not doing you any good as well, is it? So what we're doing again is we're letting the infrastructure go. So, that's what I'm getting at. It's as simple as that. Ask all the questions and what you want but something's got to be done out there. I don't care what it is but it's got to be done. It's just not fair to the taxpayers. All we talk about is downtown. I couldn't get this way. It's always downtown, downtown, you know. Baseball stadium, this, that. But when it comes to the infrastructure you hear very little, very little. Us Aldermen have to work very hard out there when we get called. I know I work very hard in my ward, and I like to see it addressed as promptly as possible, not two, three or four weeks down the road. So we do have to do something in your department. I don't care if it's cross-train, or if we have to hire somebody else to help you, I think it has got to be done. If we're going to spend all our money out there for economic development we've got to spend a little here for the taxpayers.

Alderman Roy stated I couldn't agree more. And Glenn, this isn't directed at you but more at the policymakers and my colleagues here, we had the opportunity to put a solid waste compliance officer out there and did not, and it sounds like it is quite a bit of the same problem, of not having the manpower out visually being able to check, inspect, find, and correct problems. And so I would ask our department heads to either work within Building or Building and Highway maybe if there isn't a full position that can be brought on, there's a half position in Building and a half position in Highway that can take care of some of these problems. We're coming back to focus on the same things: conditions that other neighbors have to put up with, based on how people don't take care of their property whether they're absentee landlords or people that just don't care, or whether it's solid waste or zoning compliance or automobiles left in the yard, it all comes back to the same thing and that's manpower. So I would ask that our department heads maybe get together and see if there is a creative solution that we can come up with, and that's all that I want to say on the manpower. I will touch a little bit on what Alderman O'Neil was saying about the technology and there are computer size touch pads that you can download the forms into and just hit Zoning Problems and it brings up the top 50 most common problems and you highlight the ones that you are, so instead of writing down my address and the amount of cars and unregistered vehicles or anything like that you can hit the property location, hit the top five complaints that you have or top five things and it prints it all on a

form that later on you dock the station and it prints it out. I would ask that we work with Diane Prew...technology, it's investment in training, but it may be something that will save you some time and effort and make the next few years more enjoyable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Osborne stated anybody else? As far as the commercial vehicles on private property, anything ten thousand pounds or less...

Ms. Sink stated it doesn't meet the definition of commercial.

Chairman Osborne stated I see whether it has lettering, whatever it might be.

Mr. Sink stated it doesn't come into play anywhere in the ordinance.

Chairman Osborne asked how did you arrive at 10,000?

Mr. Gagne stated it's actually I think one of the state regs.

Chairman Osborne asked is it state statute? Is it something we have to go by with the state or is it something we can change?

Mr. Gagne stated well I mean 2001 is when it changed. Prio to that a business vehicle was simply a business vehicle, as far as our definition. In 2001 we changed it over to the 10,000 plus vehicle to be more in line with the way they're registered. That's when they start being registered as commercial vehicles.

Chairman Osborne asked what is your recommendation? Do you think this is fine the way it is? Any complaints or any problems with this type of weight where you feel that it's a blight area to have school buses. We have four of them on a street which causes a safety hazard for people coming out of their driveway to look down the other way. It's a complete blockage; they cannot see. So it's a safety hazard. So I know this is street, has nothing to do with it but I have the City Solicitor working on that now.

Mr. Gagne stated I don't disagree. I would just caution that we've had a lot of complaints on when you can have a vehicle that has NYNEX on the side that's a Chevy Cavalier parked in somebody's driveway. I'm getting complaints about it.

Chairman Osborne stated that's 50 bucks.



Mr. Gagne stated which is no different than a regular car that somebody brings home and, you know, we have to start running around leasing plumbers' vehicles, electricians' vehicles...

Chairman Osborne stated but the height of a bus is different.

Mr. Gagne stated I agree. I'm just saying as far as drafting something new, I just caution as to where we go with it.

Chairman Osborne stated we'll work on it. Anybody else?

Alderman Shea stated I think that if we could kind of get back from you folks even one, two or three types of things, I know we've thrown out many things, but if we could get that and just try to focus and work accordingly and make gradual but slow progress I think that's very significant because I think that unless we do, as I mentioned before, things aren't going to get better on their own. People have to be involved in trying to make things a little bit better for people who do follow all of the rules and try hard to maintain their property. You know, in every neighborhood it seems that people are moving in and obviously making the quality of life in that neighborhood less than should be and sometimes it's by way of not knowing the rules, but other times it's by ignoring the rules and thinking that it's their street and nobody else's and I think that with the proper kind of instruction and way of handling things we can make our city a lot better in different locales now that need to be upgraded. Again, you can only do so much, but we would appreciate your cooperation.

Chairman Osborne asked is there a limit to how many commercial vehicles you can have on your property, 10,000 pounds or more? Not unregistered. I'm just talking about commercial vehicles.

Mr. Sink asked legally parked and in the right portion of your lot? No, there's no limit.

Chairman Osborne asked and how far do they have to be away from a building?

Mr. Sink replied four feet roughly.

Chairman Osborne stated four feet, but there's only two – one house is here and the other house is on the other side, only two feet between the two houses, so that's a no-no, right?

Mr. Sink replied yes.

Chairman Osborne stated what I'd like to do if there's no more questions from the committee, I would like to table this till Leon gets back from his vacation. I'd like to have this an ongoing thing on the table till we can get some sort of satisfaction of what we're going to do here with the Building Department. I think it's time, like you said to the Aldermen, whether it's we have to get the monies or we're going to cross train or whatever it might be, we've got to do something to help Mr. Gagne here. He's been working hard all these years by himself up there and it's a lot of work, really a lot of work, and we appreciate his being there.

Mr. Sink stated ultimately it will help us all.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to table this item.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Osborne addressed items of New Business:

Communication from Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. requesting residential parking at 3-7 Dow Street, 1382-1414 Elm Street and 1426-1470 Elm Street.

Alderman Long stated thank you Mr. Chairman. Due to time constraints and the fact July 28<sup>th</sup> was when I received this, I need to speak with other people, so if I could just get this on the next agenda, there would be a lot of deliberation.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to table this item relative to residential parking.

Communication from Intown Manchester requesting curtailment of parking enforcement during the Taste of Downtown Manchester event scheduled to be held on September 13, 2006 from 5 PM to 8 PM.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve the request of Intown Manchester.

## **TABLED ITEMS**

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Discussion relating to police details as it relates to construction and/or nightclub details as requested by Alderman O'Neil.  
*(Tabled 03/21/2006 pending report from Police Department.)*

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to remove item 6 from the table for discussion.

Deputy Chief Gary Simmons stated it's my understanding that, I know Alderman O'Neil you'd expressed an interest in increasing a detail rate of pay, in particular for nightclubs and I assume it was with the intent that maybe we could...more nightclubs because the pay was higher. We've had conversations in the past and I've indicated that it was our understanding anyway that it was a contract issue and have to be negotiated through contract negotiations. I maintain that. Currently under the Article 12 of the Manchester Police Patrolmen's Association contract, it refers to extra details and under that article, under Section 12.8 it refers to how a rate of pay for extra details is registered. It breaks it down. What that is, similar to what Alderman O'Neil has expressed with concerns on nightclubs, we had a concern with strikes in the City. We had previously had a UPS strike in which we had a difficult time manning that we ultimately had to order people to do it. So in our last contract negotiation in 2004 we negotiated with the union to make strike details a priority, in which case we changed the rate of pay for that particular item. It was our understanding and we've maintained that understanding that to increase that rate of pay or to change that rate of pay without a negotiated contract settlement with the union, we wouldn't have been able to do that. Certainly, Alderman O'Neil, I understand your reasoning for wanting to do that. We've had some concerns, in particular with a couple of different nightclubs, certainly open to discussion with it, but at this point we really haven't entertained the thought of increasing that rate of pay.

Alderman O'Neil stated you're absolutely right Deputy that this is really only regarding a limited number of nightclubs in the City of Manchester, but unfortunately we've had incidents at those clubs without details being filled...pretty violent acts. Is it something that you could possibly approach...is it with both unions or just the patrolmen's union?

Deputy Chief Simmons stated I don't think it would be fair to even say that it's necessarily with this union at this point. Previous administrations, previous union heads, have had discussions relative to making certain details priorities in the past, whether it be a nightclub, a particular construction site or what have you, and there have always been issues back and forth and they never actually were able to come to grips as to what would be acceptable. Certainly management wanted to maintain the rights as to what would a priority be, etc. We certainly would be open to discussion with that. With that discussion obviously it creates other avenues down the road, opens up other discuss down the road on different things which always happens with negotiations on contracts. But we'd certainly be willing to entertain a conversation with them.

Alderman O'Neil stated we have in the past, I can't say specifically with any of the unions with the Police Department, but we've done sidebars well after contracts have been approved on other issues with other unions.

Deputy Chief Simmons stated we have, yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated so I just suggest, ask you to have that discussion and if it doesn't become a lot of back and forth, maybe it's worth doing... and again you're absolutely right Deputy, it's to address a limited number of facilities but I think it puts the Department in a bad position when there is an incident at those facilities. There's no detail officer and some of them need to have, unfortunately, more than one detail officer. And then we're tying up units from the City for a considerable amount of time, where if an officer was there an incident may have been prevented. So, if it would be helpful to you, I'm willing to make a motion to ask you to do that.

Deputy Chief Simmons responded, we can certainly do that. I'll take a motion if you'd like but we'll be starting new negotiations anyway in the not too distant future.

Alderman O'Neil stated I've heard the contracts aren't up for another year though.

Deputy Chief Simmons responded we'll start negotiations long before that.

Alderman O'Neil stated I'd like to see if there's an opportunity to do a sidebar, we need to do that sooner than a year from now.

Deputy Chief Simmons stated we can have some discussion on that.

Alderman O'Neil stated it's up to you if you're just looking for some direction from the committee or if you're looking for a formal vote.

Deputy Chief Simmons responded no, I think I have the direction. It's more than enough, I think.

Chairman Osborne asked, Alderman O'Neil, do you want to receive and file this number 6 or do you want to keep it on the table?

Alderman O'Neil responded let's keep it on the table and at some point ask the Deputy... I mean if you want to get rid of it, I trust the Deputy will report back to us.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to receive and file this item.

7. Discussion relating to coordination of services and utilities during storm events such as what occurred on February 10, 2006 as requested by Alderman O'Neil.  
*(Tabled 03/21/2006 pending report from Fire and Police Departments.)*

This item remained tabled.

8. Parking Study Recommendations  
*(Tabled 04/18/2006 – previously forwarded under separate cover.)*

This item remained tabled.

9. **STOP SIGNS:**  
On Lacourse Street at Rhode Island Avenue, NEC  
On New York Street at Rhode Island Avenue, SWC  
Alderman Duval  
*(Tabled 05/16/2006)*

This item remained tabled.

10. Discussion relative to Saturday parking fees.  
(*Tabled 06/20/2006*)

This item remained tabled.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee